IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute currently amended claim numbers 1, 2, 27 and 28 for the pending claims having the same claim numbers.

Please cancel claim 26 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claim 29 for consideration.

1. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating a hepatic disorder and/or for increasing the number of immune cells and platelets in a patient, consisting essentially of a therapeutically effective amount of a buffered aqueous extract of ~~one of the botanical plants selected from the group consisting of Actaea rubra, Anemone hepatica, Anemone nemorosa,~~ Nigella sativa~~, and Ranunculus arvensis~~, ~~or extracts thereof,~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the ~~one of the botanical plants~~ extract of Nigella sativa is present in a concentration of not less than 20% weight per volume.

2. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating a hepatic disorder and/or for increasing the number of immune cells and platelets in a patient consisting essentially of a therapeutically effective amount of a buffered aqueous extract of Anemone hepatica and Nigella sativa, ~~or extracts thereof,~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the extract of Nigella sativa is present in a concentration of not less than 20% weight per volume.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in a form of a tablet or capsule.

5. (original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in a form of a liquid or suspension.

6. (original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in a form of a sterile preparation for intra-muscular, subcutaneous, or intra-venous injection.

7. (original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in a form of nasal spray.

8. (original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in a form of a topical application.

9. (original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in a form of a transdermal system.

10. (original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in a form of suppository.

11. (withdrawn) A method of treating hepatic disorders, comprising administration of a composition according to claim 1 to a patient requiring such treatment.

12. (withdrawn) A method of treating hepatic disorders, without adversely affecting the hemoglobin blood level, comprising administration of a composition according to claim 1 to a patient requiring such treatment.

13. (withdrawn) A method of treating hepatic disorders caused by hepatitis C virus infection, comprising administration of a composition according to claim 1 to patients with clinical stages 0/6, 1/6, 2/6, and 3/6, with corresponding hepatic activity index ranging from 1/18 to 9/18, requiring such treatment.

14. (withdrawn) A method of treating hepatic disorders caused by hepatitis C virus infection, comprising administration of a composition according to claim 1 to patients with

clinically advanced stages, i.e. 4/6, 5/6, and 6/6, with corresponding hepatic activity index ranging from 7/18 to 13/18, requiring such treatment.

15. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 11, wherein the hepatic disorders result from chronic hepatitis.

16. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 11, wherein the hepatic disorders result from genotypes I, II, III, IV.

17. (withdrawn) A method of treating immunological disorders, comprising administration of a composition according to claim 1 to a patient with a compromised immune system requiring such treatment.

18. (withdrawn) A method of increasing the natural killer cell populations, comprising administration of a composition according to claim 1 to a patient requiring such treatment.

19. (withdrawn) A method of increasing the blood platelet count, comprising administration of a composition according to claim 1 to a patient requiring such treatment.

20. (withdrawn) A method of decreasing the viral load of liver-cancer patients, comprising administration of a composition according to claim 1 to a patient requiring such treatment.

21. (withdrawn) A method according to any of claims 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, or 20, wherein the treatment is therapeutic.

22. (withdrawn) A method according to any of claims 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, or 20, wherein the treatment is prophylactic.

23. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the extracts are present in a relative ratio to each other of about 1% by weight to about 95% by weight of Actaea rubra; about 1% by weight to about 95% by weight of Anemone hepatica; about 1% by weight to about 95% by weight of Anemone nemorosa; about 1% by weight to about 95% by weight of Nigella sativa; and about 1% by weight to about 95% by weight of Ranunculus arvensis.

24. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the extracts are present in a relative ratio to each other of about 2% by weight to about 90% by weight of Actaea rubra; about 2% by weight to about 90% by weight of Anemone hepatica; about 2% by weight to about 90% by weight of Anemone nemorosa; about 2% by weight to about 90% by weight of Nigella sativa; and about 2% by weight to about 90% by weight of Ranunculus arvensis.

25. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the extracts are present in a relative ratio to each other of about 5% by weight to about 15% by weight of Actaea rubra; about 40% by weight to about 87% by weight of Anemone hepatica; about 2% by weight to about 7% by weight of Anemone nemorosa; about 4% by weight to about 12% by weight of Nigella sativa; and about 7% by weight to about 23% by weight of Ranunculus arvensis.

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition of ~~any~~ either one of claims 1, or 2, ~~or 26,~~ wherein the composition is effective for treating patients suffering from ~~hepatitis and for increasing the number of immune cells and platelets in said patients~~ a hepatic disorder selected from the group consisting of chronic hepatitis, advanced/late stage hepatitis, hepatitis caused by hepatitis virus genotypes I, II, II or IV, a hepatic disorder characterized by fibrosis and/or cirrhosis, a hepatic disorder resulting from an autoimmune disease and a hepatic disorder resulting from a drug treatment.

28. (currently amended)) The composition of claim 27, wherein the patients suffering from ~~hepatitis~~ said hepatic disorder~~,~~ exhibit advanced stage ~~hepatitis~~ liver disease characterized by fibrosis and cirrhosis, ~~and are in stages 4 through 6 of the disease process,~~ and wherein treating with said composition results in modifying disease activity, including but not limited to, a decrease in hepatitis viral load, and a decrease in liver enzymes alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) levels.

29. (new) The composition of either one of claims 1 or 2, wherein said composition is effective in treating the cirrhosis and fibrosis associated with an advanced/late stage hepatic disorder.